Roadmap Suggests Steps to Boost Afghanistan Mining Sector

The ‘Roadmap for Afghanistan Natural Resources’, a strategy approved by the government in 2017, suggests that Afghanistan could become an average income country from a low income to five decades if the strategy is implemented properly.

According to the natural resources roadmap, Afghanistan is home to vast resources of metals, industrial minerals and construction materials. A large quantity of metallic elements such as iron, copper, aluminium, bauxite, zinc, silver, gold, sulfur, talc, chrome, stucce and precious stone exist in the country.

These studies show Afghanistan has vast resources of metal, industrial minerals and construction materials. The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) says 24 areas have been registered for investment and diverse media as well as government officials have told Pajhwok Afghan News that the roadmaps contain the overview of natural resources in the country and discuss challenges and shortcomings in the mining sector, legal framework, necessary reforms, creation of industry and market places.

Overview of Afghanistan’s Natural Resources

The MoMP writes that natural resources of Afghanistan are estimated to be of $3 trillion worth but these riches could not be exploited based on mutual consensus.

The ministry says a number of studies have been conducted to know the exact worth of natural resources in the country. These studies show Afghanistan has vast resources of metal, industrial minerals and construction materials. A large quantity of metallic elements such as iron, copper, aluminium, bauxite, zinc, silver, gold, sulfur, talc, chrome, stucce and precious stone exist in the country.

According to the natural resources roadmap, Afghanistan is home to deposits containing 2.2 billion metric tonnes of stones maintaining iron, 1.5 billion metric tonnes of marble, 3 million metric tonnes of copper, 1.4 million metric tonnes of precious minerals and 2.780 kilograms of gold. The roadmap says 24 areas have been registered having these minerals.

The MoMP says there are some areas which contain huge amount of natural resources but the possibility of threats has declined investment opportunities there, while there.

KABUL - The British envoy says UK welcomes the steps that the Afghan government took to improve the security of journalists. The British Ambassador in Kabul, Alison Blake CMG, in a statement on Wednesday praised the expansion of Afghanistan’s independ- ent and diverse media as remarkable success of the last 18 years but underlined concerns about impact of the conflict on journalist’s safety and the significant threats faced by journalists working in Afghanistan.

She said supporting media freedom is a global priority for the UK Government.

KABUL - 'The Roadmap for Afghanistan Natural Resources', a strategy approved by the High Council of Economic Affairs in December 2017 and endorsed by the Cabinet earlier this year, was approved by the High Council of Economic Affairs in December 2017 and endorsed by the Cabinet earlier this year. He termed the roadmap as key to development of the mining sector and told Pajhwok Afghan News the government in 2017.

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